

safe, they can't keep the Nation's drug supply safe, but we were spending time on that instead of putting time on FISA.

Now, as a mother, you know that children are going to put off to the very end doing the hardest thing. So, what you do when you're a mom is to say, no, we're going to do the hard things first. When we're doing homework, we're going to do the hard problems first, we're going to write the hard papers first because you get it out of the way. And then you know that regardless of how much time is left, you've attended to the things that are going to have the greatest impact.

Now, that is the way the leadership of this House needs to move forward. They need to go back and learn a Kindergarten lesson. They need to go back and think about what they learned there. You do the hard things first.

FISA is a difficult bill. We are pleased that there are some issues that take a lot of work, that we have to work to build consensus, that we have to look carefully and study these; the Nation benefits and our constituents benefit by that. But to put it off, to choose to not address it, to leave it at the back of the line for partisan political gain is dead wrong.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. You're absolutely right. And that's what people get frustrated by is the partisanship and the political games being played.

I yield to my friend from Georgia.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. The gentlelady brings up a good point. But the Republicans, the minority here, we've tried to bring it to the floor on over a half dozen occasions. We tried to bring it to the floor again today. We tried to bring it to the floor yesterday. And this is the same bill that passed the Senate. And the gentlelady from Tennessee was taking about, it's a hard issue and it's an issue that needs to be discussed. There is no slower body in the world than our colleagues across the hall. I mean, they've been working on a farm bill for a year now. So, I mean, it's a very deliberative body, and they passed this overwhelmingly 68-29. And as the gentleman from Georgia said, there are 21 Members that have said they would vote for this bill. So we tried to bring it to the floor to see if it would pass, but through parliamentary procedure they refused to let us vote on it.

And, you know, Mr. PRICE, if we don't vote on issues, our constituents don't know how we really feel about it. So, you can go home and say, yes, I'm for the security of this Nation, I'm for the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, but if you don't have an opportunity to vote on it, it's just words, it's simple words.

And so we're ready for some action up here. I mean, we want to see some action on our intelligence to make sure our intelligence community has the very best tools that they need. And not

only that, but our corporations, who have been so generous and willing to go along with some of the things that our government has asked them to do to keep our people safe, we need to make sure that they're protected.

And so, you know, we're not the party of the trial lawyers; we're the party of the people. And so, I think if we quit trying to protect some of these special interests and start trying to protect this whole country, we would be a lot better off.

And I want to applaud our leadership for staying consistent and being constant that we keep this in front of the American people and that we are trying to give the Members of this people's House an opportunity to vote on it.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate that.

We are ready for action. We are ready for action. The American people are ready for action on this issue; in fact, they're demanding it. And that's why we have begun, I think over the last week or so, to hear the language on the other side change, but their actions haven't changed.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. And what we're doing is we're giving an opportunity for the terrorists to act.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Exactly. Exactly.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Because we can't surveil them. And so, rather than us taking the action, they're taking the action. And that is unconscionable that this body is letting that happen.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Without a doubt. And our constituents understand and appreciate that.

The folks that we're up against in this battle, the individuals who wish to do us harm, are very smart people, very smart people. And we have an open society. When we provide them an opening in that open society, they will take advantage of it. And as you say, it's unconscionable. It's unconscionable for this House to not allow a vote on it.

Some of my constituents at home say, well, why can't you just bring it up? And as you've mentioned, we have tried to bring it up, but the House is a very majoritarian body, it is run by strict rules. And if the leadership of the majority party doesn't want it to happen, it won't happen. If the majority party doesn't want it to happen, it won't happen. And the reason for that is they control absolutely everything that comes to the floor. And consequently, our constituents, our friends at home get frustrated by the fact that we, in this House of Representatives, seem to be unable to get this done. And we've called on, I've called on, everybody here has called on the Democrat leadership, on the Speaker, on the leader on the other side to bring this to a vote.

We're comfortable and confident that this House will do the right thing, will do the responsible thing, and will pass this bill.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. I want Mr. HOEKSTRA to have a chance, but I do want to say this: We had a bomb go off in Times Square this morning, fortunately, it didn't do a lot of damage, at the recruiting station right in the middle of Times Square in the middle of New York City. And we also have had a bombing in Jerusalem today. So, the terrorists are still at work. People that want to terrify this country are still at work, and we've let our guard down.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank you for those comments.

We're pleased to be joined by our good friend from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA), who is the ranking member, former chairman of the Intelligence Committee, understands this issue as well as anybody, and has been a champion for not just his constituents in the State of Michigan but all Americans in bringing focus on it.

I am pleased to yield to my good friend.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. I thank my colleague. And I thank all of my colleagues for talking about this important issue.

You know, we've been talking about this now for over 7 months. Last August, we passed a 6-month extension. That 6-month extension expired at the beginning of February. We passed a 2-week extension. We got to the end of that, and then the Democratic majority said, well, let's do a 3-week extension. And we said, no, we need to do a comprehensive fix. We need to fix FISA long term. We need to do the telecommunications companies. And then they said, well, we can do that in 3 weeks. An hour ago marked the end of the third week of legislating.

They were never serious about getting this done, and they wouldn't have gotten it done when they said they would. At the beginning of this week they said, well, we're not going to get to it this week because our legislative agenda is just too packed full. Here we are at 10 after 4 and our packed legislative agenda means the House stopped business at 3 o'clock.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Absolutely.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Unbelievable. But now 5 weeks ago, when we started into this process one more time, we said exactly what my colleague was highlighting, both my colleagues, the terrorists have not stopped. They continue their attacks in Pakistan. Five weeks ago is when they had some major bombings in Pakistan just before the elections. They had the major bombing in Afghanistan. But we also then started hearing from al Qaeda in Iraq saying they wanted to use Iraq to do what? Do you remember? Al Qaeda in Iraq said, we want to use it as a base to attack Jerusalem.

And then a major terrorist died in Lebanon. We're not sure exactly what the circumstances were. Some think it's Israel, some others say it might have been Hezbollah itself. But one of the key leaders of Hezbollah passed away, and the statement from